Import of Luxury Items

3505. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted the import of luxury items like 29-inch colour T.V. sets, air-conditioned buses, wood products, synthetic perfumes, synthetic flavours etc.;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what will be the impact of these imports on the respective indigenous industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Import of 29" : Colour T.V. sets, Air-conditioned buses, Wood products, Synthetic perfumery compounds and Synthetic flavouring essence has been permited against Special Import Licences to support and assist the Export House/ Trading Houses/Star Trading Houses/ Super Star Trading Houses. Import of these items shall help in creating competitive environment among the indigenous industry.

Import of Agricultural Goods by Japan

3506. SHRI BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total volume of agricultural goods imported by Japan and West Europe in 1991-93 and what proportions of those came from Africa, Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, India and rest of Asia?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The details of import of agricultural goods into the European Union (EU)were as below:

(Qty. Million tonnes; Value: Million ECUs)

Country Group						
				Value		
Extra AEU	36929	88.50	37510	96.57	37077	91.24
India	492	1.36	488	1.30	580	1.51
Rest of Asia	4943	14.12	5594	18.03	5264	15.41
Africa	4148	5.23	3833	5.01	3739	4.90
Latin America	9738	27.45	9410	27.66	9208	26.30
New Zealand	928	0.60	931	0.62	977	0.59
Australia	311	0.40	400	0.78	456	0.99
	57489	137.66	58166	149.97	57301	140.94

(SOURCE: Embassy of India at Brussels)